

In Alaska, our 26 public radio stations strive to provide quality, in-depth programming to listeners over a land mass equal to 20% of the Continental United States. Most of our stations are sole-service local, community licensed & serve remote, rural areas with very unique needs that often can't be met with just a single service. Multiplexing of the digital audio signal enables us to provide programs to specific audiences that currently are not served. In its simplest form, this could mean providing our main programming on the primary channel, and an additional service such as music programming on the supplemental channel. We have a number of Alaska Native populations with specific Native language needs that could be met using the supplemental audio channel. In fact, in many of our communities we have significant percentages of Latinos, Asian/Pacific Island languages and they too need special services that simply can not be met using a single channel.

Current analog radio technology limits our radio stations to providing only one programming service to our community. Digital broadcasting, with multicasting capabilities, will enable our radio stations to use existing programs in expanded fashion and to develop new, more varied and diverse programming formats whose appeal may be more targeted and defined.

Beyond authorizing the use HD Radio technology to offer supplemental audio channels, the FCC's goals will be well served by providing non-commercial educational stations with maximum flexibility to serve the needs and interests of our listeners. Alaska's public radio stations share a mission to serve the public's educational needs and have a proven track record of successfully doing so. Public radio counts on the FCC to fully protect our ability to serve that programming mission.